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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
HA-05 EB-08 COME-00 /081 W
----------016562 110633Z /23
R 091702Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6034

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4442

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS - AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH STOCK MARKET
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. AMBASSADOR LUNCHED YESTERDAY (JUNE 8) WITH BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF BUENOS AIRES STOCK MARKET. AS HONORED GUEST, AMBASSADOR ANTICIPATED A FRIENDLY AND INFORMAL DISCOURSE FROM SUCH VARYING SUBJECTS AS WEATHER TO THE WORLD CUP.

2. BEFORE THE AMBASSADOR GULPED HIS FIRST DRY CRACKER OR TASTED HIS SEMI-RANCID TOMATO JUICE, DR. ALBERTO SERVENTE, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD, EXPLODED WITH THE TRADITIONAL DIATRIBE OF ARGENTINA'S EFFORTS IN THE "DIRTY WAR" OF YEARS PAST AND HOW MISUNDERSTOOD THEY WERE BY USG. HE CONTINUED HIS DISCORDANT RENDITION, FOLLOWED BY OTHER, ABOUT HOW IFIS WERE BECOMING PAWNS OF AMERICAN POLITICAL CHICANERY. AS IF IT WERE HIS LAST BREATH, SERVENTE STATED THAT ARGENTINA'S IMAGE IN THE UNITED STATES WAS BEING UNFAIRLY AND NEGATIVELY PORTRAYED.

3. AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT HE FOUND HIMSELF BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA, BUT NEVERTHELESS APPRECIATED THEIR INVITATION FOR HIM TO LISTEN TO THEIR FRUSTRATIONS (INQUIETUDES). AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT PERIOD
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OF EMOTIONALISM SHOULD BE A THING OF THE PAST. THAT THEY AS BUSINESSMEN APPARENTLY WERE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT ARGENTINA'S IMAGE ABROAD. IT WAS FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT THE BURDEN WAS ON ARGENTINA TO REVERSE THAT NEGATIVE IMAGE.

4. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN IN THE U.S. OVER THOUSANDS OF PRISONERS FESTERING IN ARGENTINE PRISONS

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WITHOUT CHARGES. THAT UNLESS SOME SOLUTION WAS FOUND TO THIS DILEMMA, THE IMAGE PROBLEM WOULD CONTINUE. IT WAS MADE CLEAR THAT UNLESS ARGENTINA RETURNED TO "RULE OF LAW", FOREIGN INVESTORS WOULD BY-PASS THE AREA. EMPHASIS WAS MADE BY AMBASSADOR OF THE NECESSITY TO REINSTITUTE A STRONG JUDICIAL SYSTEM. THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT IT WAS UP TO ARGENTINA TO PURSUE ITS OWN COURSE.

5. AFTER A COMPLETE REHASHING OF THE SUBJECT, AMBASSADOR WAS TOLD OF THEIR ADMIRATION FOR THE U.S. THEY THEN GAVE LIP SERVICE TO THE CONCEPT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THEIR PARTING SALVO WAS THAT ARGENTINA'S FATE WAS TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON THE U.S. THE HOSTS PAINFULLY ADMITTED THAT THE BALL WAS NOW IN THEIR COURT AND IT WAS UP TO ARGENTINA TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH POSITIVE ACTS IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS. IT ALL ENDED IN A SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP.
CASTRO

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